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## Current Events.

Senator Logan's bill to increase the efficiency and the number of the regular army was defeated in the senate on Wednesday by a decisive vote of 31 to 19. The debate upon the merits of the bill lasted through a number of days and its defeat was foreshadowed. Just why the bill should have been introduced at this time is puzzling, as Senator Logan distinctly averred it was not to be introduced until the west or to suppress Indian outbreaks. The enactment of it would give the regular army about 5,000 additional soldiers, and entail and additional annual expense of \$8,000,000 for military purposes.

The senate committee on Postoffices and Post Roads has at last taken up the cases of "suspended" officials, and in many cases acted upon them favorably. The committee divides them into three classes—first, of postmasters whose predecessors and neighbors had made no opposition or protest of any kind; second, of those against whose confirmation protests had been made and charges filed by others than the outgoing postmasters, but which charges proved, on investigation by the committee, to be without foundation; third, cases in respect to which suspended officials had themselves become satisfied that there were other charges than that of partisanship and had indicated their wish that the investigation should rest there and the appointment be confirmed. The substance of it all is that the senate republicans are satisfied that the best thing they can do is to now attend to confirming and not attempt to dictate about removals.

Notwithstanding the numerous dispatches in recent issues of the Chicago Tribune, Inter Ocean and Journal alleging that Hon. John H. Oberly would not be confirmed as a member of the Civil Service Commission the senate has by a unanimous vote confirmed his appointment. Mr. Oberly is now placed in a position where he can put to shame the lying slanders and hypocritical utterances of a partisan republican press.

The President has nominated General John A. McClelland to the chairmanship of the Utah Commission. The appointment is in every way a fit one. For many years he has been a prominent figure in state and national democratic politics. He was for several terms a member of congress, a judge of the circuit court, and presided with great fairness over the Democratic national convention at St. Louis in 1876. During the war he rendered efficient service to the northern cause—distinguishing himself for great bravery and coolness. He is in every sense a man of ability and a perfect gentleman. His nomination is a credit to the administration.

Governor Eli Murray has been removed from the governorship of Utah, and Judge Caleb West appointed to succeed him. Judge West is a resident of Kentucky and a man of an extended state reputation as a profound lawyer.

The house has accomplished a great deal of legislative work during the past week. The "Labor Arbitration" bill providing for an arbitration commission to be called into service if desired in settling difficulties between employer and employees has been passed by a decisive majority. The bill is loosely constructed and will probably be of little practical benefit even if it should pass the senate and become a law. It is what might properly be termed "a popular clamour bill."

By a vote of 163 to 136 the Bland unlimited Silver Coinage bill failed to pass the house on Thursday. This action on the part of the house disposes effectually of reason in the silver men of the country at attempting to force through an act that will make silver the standard measure of value in this country as the passage of the Bland bill would. Succinctly stated—this government cannot with success adopt as its financial standard a metal that is not the standard of any other government.

By the passage of the Library bill the Congressional library, which is rapidly increasing in size will be provided with ample room for its proper preservation. For years it has been cramped, and though congress has been repeatedly appealed to no adequate provision has ever before been made for it.

On Monday the Mexican pension bill, granting a pension of eight dollars a month to all survivors of the Mexican war, or their widows, provided the surviving soldiers or sailors are not resting under political disabilities, was passed by the house.

The recovery of Secretary Manning from his recent attack of vertigo is very slow. He is just able to leave his bed, but it is not thought possible for him at the best to resume his official labors for many months, and it is more probable that he never will be able to.

Secretary Lamar has revoked the order of Land Commissioner Sparks of April 3, 1885, suspending final action in land patents pending investigation. It was this

order of the commissioner that created so much confusion at the time of its issuance and so great disturbance of land titles. The action of the secretary was approved by the President and the Cabinet.

The Republicans in the Chicago city and township election on Tuesday elected a majority of the city aldermen, and also a majority of the township officers. Throughout the country the results were varied—strong republican towns going democratic and vice versa.

In Rhode Island a prohibition amendment was submitted to the people and carried.

All of Great Britain for the past fortnight has been absorbed with the Irish measure which Premier Gladstone presented to the commons on Thursday and supported in a magnificent address. Its provisions are such as to enable Irishmen to control in a great degree Irish affairs, and while still dependent upon imperial authority in many things—in many others they will, if the bill becomes a law, have absolute power. The debate will be continued through several days, and if it fails to pass the Gladstone ministry will resign.

Hon. William Edward Forster, commonly known as "Backshot" Forster, on account of his famous "backshot" order issued while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland under the former Gladstone ministry, died on Wednesday. He was in many respects a remarkable man, possessed of the strongest convictions, which in several instances made him odious to those under him. Throughout our civil war he was one of the few members of the British parliament who favored the northern cause.

The lower house of the Prussian landtag has adopted the bill expropriating the land of the Poles in Posen and colonizing the province with Germans by a vote of 214 to 129. The Polish deputies, who have refrained from taking any part in the discussion of the bill, recorded their votes they said simply as a protest against the passage of the measure.

GLADSTONE'S PLAN.  
Since the day of the passage of the Catholic Emancipation bill, more than half a century ago, there has never been witnessed such a scene of excitement in a British parliament as that which characterized the gathering of Thursday, when the Premier of the British Isles presented in open session his measure for the relief of Ireland. Conspicuous for his superb gift of oratory among all the statesmen of Great Britain from the time of his descent under the leadership of Sir Robert Peel of the Tories until the present Gladstone was never more eloquent than in his speech made in support of this bill granting to the Irish the right of a home parliament and the right of home rule.

Warned by members of his own party of the dangers of the undertaking and threatened by those of the opposition, he still had the courage of his convictions strong enough to declare, in the face of it all, that "the time has come when it is incumbent on the duty and honor of parliament to come to some decisive resolution in this matter," and that "his intention is to propose to the commons that which, if happily accepted, will liberate parliament from the restraints under which of late years it has ineffectually struggled to perform the business of the country and will restore British legislation to its natural, ancient, unimpeded course, and above all, establish harmonious relations between Great Britain and Ireland on a footing of those free institutions to which Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen alike are unalterable attached."

Briefly, the plan submitted by the Prime Minister is to give Ireland a dual parliament, to make the office of viceroy non-political, to retain the constabulary under the present control, to give parliament no authority to endow any religious sect and to devote to Irish obligations the entire customs and excise duties.

Carefully considered and circumscribed at every point by a limited imperial authority there is yet sufficient home right and domestic liberty of action granted by it to bring immeasurable good to the people of Ireland, and to do away with unceded for imperial interference. If the measure does not go to the extreme limit that it was hoped it would by the zealous friends of the Irish cause, it yet is an open acknowledgment that the long centuries of coercion have failed to solve the most difficult problem in English politics, and that the time has come when justice between man and man demands that arbitrary force shall yield to the dictates of reason and cruel oppression to a just sense of right.

Gladstone may fall at this time in his endeavors, but if he does the failure will be but temporary, for the time must come, and that speedily, when the Irish will be as independent of continued imperial interference as is Canada.

## EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH.

The Blair educational bill, which recently passed the senate and is now under consideration by the labor committee of the house, though faulty in many respects, and unwise as a whole, is proving productive of good in provoking a thoughtful discussion of the educational interests of the south. The objections to the measure of relief introduced by the Senator from New Hampshire are that it makes appropriations out of the national treasury for states that do not ask or need federal assistance in the education of their citizens, and provides for federal supervision of that which primarily is alone of concern to the states themselves.

That something must be done by the general government to aid the states lately in rebellion to rid themselves of the growing evils of illiteracy becomes more apparent with each new investigation of the subject. The difficulty lies in devising a plan that will accomplish this end and, at the same time, not establish a precedent that at a future day will return to plague the law making powers. The danger to the government in giving a million of freedmen the right of franchise before

they were competent to understand and appreciate the responsibilities attaching to citizenship not having been considered by the republican party when the 15th amendment was enacted, it now devolves upon congress to take such steps as will avert it.

The most feasible plan yet devised, as well as the one fraught with the least danger in the way of causing a conflict between the states and the general government, as to their respective rights, is that proposed by a writer in a recent number of the Princeton Review, who suggests that Congress appropriate as a gift, pure and simple, a certain amount, to be given yearly for ten years, to each "reconstructed" state, and to the border state of Virginia, for educational purposes. In order to avail itself of such appropriation, the state must comply with a number of conditions precedent to the receiving of the gift. Those conditions are, that a definite number of schools be kept up in each county or district; that all school children of a school age be compelled to attend them; that only the elementary branches be taught, and that the money be apportioned and specifically distributed by the central state authority, which shall also select and assign the teachers, each state receiving this gift to be required to make and publish yearly a full report, which would be sufficient information to all concerned, stating exactly how the money had been spent, how many schools were kept up and how many scholars were in habitual attendance in each. Only upon the fulfillment of these conditions shall the Secretary of the Treasury pay over the sum so appropriated.

The advantage of such a scheme over the Blair bill is that the Federal authorities do not by its operation interfere with state matters, and the gift being for a special number of states under the stress of unusual circumstances, it will not establish an unwise and unwholesome precedent. If there be still danger lurking in it, the people can better afford to take the risk incident to it, than have the safety of the government constantly menaced by the greater danger resulting from an illiterate citizenship.

## NOT A PARTY LEADER.

But one thing has been accomplished by Senator Edmunds as a result of his warfare on the President, and that the unlooked for as far as he is concerned. Not only has he by his course throughout the whole contest demonstrated his lack of political judgment, but he has as well proven his complete want of the elements of political leadership. No man ever made so fierce a struggle for party supremacy and party applause as the Vermont senator, and no man ever so signally failed. The dictatorial assumption on his part of his right to control the policy of his party has been resented in more than one instance by those of his own faith, and in a manner that has indicated to him that his republican fellows in the senate will not "have him to rule over them."

His great reputation for profound learning and his long services to his party have not saved him from these rebuffs—from those who in past political contests have deemed it the highest duty of a republican leader to go to the very extreme of partisanship. In the good graces of the party at large he stands no better, for at no time from the day that Senator Edmunds presented the resolutions of censure from the judiciary committee and made "the greatest effort of his life," till the vote was taken upon them did the republican party, as a party, deem it a wise or expedient thing to make war upon the President on the question of official patronage. This belief, strong at the outset of the debate, became more fixed as it proceeded, and it was demonstrated that the President's course was sustained by a long line of precedents, and that the republican senators were but stultifying themselves in opposing him.

With the people at large who are not prone to listen to the dictates of party leaders and party caucuses, the Vermont senator has, by his uncalculated and injudicious attack upon President Cleveland, immeasurably weakened himself. The credit given him by such for his virtual rejection of Blaine in the late Presidential canvass is now withdrawn, and instead of looking upon him as a statesman possessed of sufficient courage to rise above cheap party demagoguery, they view him as nothing more or less than a partisan politician, animated by no aim higher than those which he so readily condemned in the political monte bank from Maine. Senator Edmunds is probably commercial, if honest, and for this reason only is he to be preferred as a public man to the candidate of the republican party, whom he could not be rilly support for the Presidency.

## SENATORIAL DUTIES.

If the members of the lower house and senate of 1789 could have looked forward and witnessed the action of the republican senators of today the objection to the senate's right even to participate in the confirmation of the President's appointees would have been more strongly deprecated by them than it was. Madison, then a member of the House of Representatives from Virginia, urged as an objection to senators having anything whatsoever to do with the filling of the offices that the permitting of them to would necessitate "a large share of their time being given to executive work, to the neglect of their own proper legislative duties."

The fear expressed by the distinguished Virginian has found its fulfillment in the line of action pursued by the senate "obstructionists" since the convening of congress in December last. Although over four months of the session have already gone by little or nothing has as yet been accomplished in the way of proper legisla-

tion. Important and essential measures have remained in the hands of committees solely because a republican majority in the senate have insisted upon dividing with the President responsibilities that under the constitution are placed entirely upon him. The bills that have been taken up are not of pressing need or of more than a local character, and in no instance have senators shown the same fervor in the discharge of their proper legislative duties as has characterized them in their attempt to discharge their improper executive ones.

If the senators who constitute the opposition to the President had deliberately set about to make themselves and the body of which they are members odious with the people they could not have chosen a more direct course. Under the most favorable circumstances the senate of the United States has never been popular with the people, and the senseless participation in such contests as the one just ended, by those who comprise it, but tends to render it more distasteful. If it is the province of senators to attend to the filling of the office, rather than enact needful legislation, and rather than the duty of the President, the office of the Executive should be abolished as a useless piece of governmental machinery for it never was intended that two distinct and separate branches of the federal system should have in keeping the same trust.

The La Salle Times and the Journal, of this city, affect to be pained to learn that newspaper composition in this office has been reduced from 30c. to 25c. per 1,000 ems. From men who pay their own hands less (or no more, at least), this solicitude for our men is touching. It reminds one of Pecksniff in solidified linen. The FREE TRADER is paying the same wages to type setters that the highest priced office in this city pays—35c. for news composition, 30c. on court work. It paid 30c. for months after all the other offices in this city had cut down to 25c. a 1,000, or employed girls by the week, whose type setting doesn't cost their employers 20c. It paid 30c. for years after every other office in this county except one (and that employs no journeymen piece hands) had cut down wages to 25c. or less. The FREE TRADER pays the same wages that Aurora, Streator, Freeport, Rockford, and all other cities of this size north of the Ohio and east of the Missouri river pay; it pays for court work more than those cities pay now. It pays for overtime, which no other office here does pay for, or ever has. It employs men where other offices employ girls and boys at less than half men's wages; it gives employment to more heads of families than any three offices in this county combined; and pays weekly more money than any office in this county. So that the claim that the FREE TRADER is slashing its men is a lie. It is paying the current wages of the best offices in the inland cities of the state, and for some lines of work, requiring skill and experience, it pays more. When every fellow who has rubbed news ink on his fingers, and daubed his eye with carmine (borrowed) can start a newspaper with a few quire circulation, and cut wages and palm themselves off as newspapers on a community, it is to be expected that legitimate journeymen printers will suffer for it so long as men choose to throw soap to that sort of spongers which absorb all they can and give nothing up.

By a mutual arrangement entered into between Mr. W. H. Stead and Mr. Duncan McDougall, late candidates for the position of trustee for the Ottawa Township High School, both have withdrawn from today's contest, and the name of Mr. William J. Graham is presented to the voters by the friends of both as a proper person for the place. As there will be no opposition to Mr. Graham, he will be elected and shortly enter upon the duties of his new office, an office he is well qualified to fill. This arrangement was brought about by Mr. McDougall through his friends submitting to Mr. Stead the proposition that they both withdraw and a new man be selected. At Mr. Stead's suggestion Mr. Graham was selected. The candidacy of Mr. Stead though very brief, was very effective, and it is more than probable that if he had remained upon the track he would have been elected. It was at the suggestion and urging of his friends that he became a candidate, and he withdrew only after consultation with them. It is to be hoped that certain reforms, in which the school stands greatly in need of, will be brought about under the new directory.

Outside of several hostile demonstrations at East St. Louis and the riot at Fort Worth quiet has prevailed at the scene of the labor strikes. Gen. Vance, of the state militia, is at East St. Louis, but Gov. Oglesby steadily refuses to call out the militia. On Thursday the sheriff of St. Clair county, accompanied by a posse comitatus, went to the scene of the strike, but no hostile demonstration was made. The sudden and severe illness of Master Workman Powderly has left the Knights without an advice for the past week, and as a result no definite plan of action has been agreed upon. Trains are now making their regular trips over the Gould lines, unmolested by strikers.

The editor of the Joliet Press has had another "sectional" nightmare. In this instance it is due to the confirmation of Judge Merrick, an alleged "copperhead," as a member of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. As the confirmation was brought about by the action of a republican senate, the Press man ought not to take it so much to heart. If this "Southern" distress lasts much longer some heroic treatment will have to be resorted to to cause relief. It is agonizing to see such editorial gripings.

The nomination of Gen. McClelland, by the President, to the Chairmanship of the Utah Commission, has been made, much to the satisfaction of Congressmen Springer, who has been unceasing in his endeavors to provide for the General. With McClelland drawing a salary of \$5,000 per annum, and Clemen filling the Springfield postoffice, there seems to be no good reason why Congressman Springer should not have smooth sailing in his Congressional fight.

The defeat of John G. Armstrong for the position of town clerk on Tuesday is in many ways to be regretted. He had held the position for sixteen years, and was thoroughly familiar with the duties of the office. His records have always been found correct. His knowledge of the road law of the state enabled him to render the highway commissioners very valuable assistance. His successor will have to work very hard to be so efficient an aid to them.



THEY'RE GOT ENOUGH.

They wanted fight—they've got enough—The good Repubs are dazed; They almost doubt if they're alive—The Senators are crazed. They've got it square, right in the eye, Straight from the shoulder sent—The "No!" of Grover Cleveland, who Don't weaken for a cent.

The great and glacial Edmunds melts With rage to see such "cheek," And in his righteous wrath declares The President's unique; Correct—the man to-day's unique Who can't be broke or bent, Or bribed or bullied; who, in short Don't weaken for a cent.

At last they find they've struck a man Who doesn't mean to sverve; A man who's got the Jackson eye, And got the Jackson nerve; No matter though the gale may blow Till all the sails be rent, There's one thing sure—the President Won't weaken for a cent.

—Boston Post.

The Chicago Daily News of Wednesday published a full page review of what purported to be a careful statement of the Hennepin canal scheme; but as nowhere in the course of the eight columns filled by it reference is made to the eminent services rendered by the distinguished member from the eighth congressional district in promoting the canal's interests, we cannot refrain from expressing grave doubts as to the reliability of the Daily News' account. At any rate, we think it better for the people of the district to view the Daily News' effort with suspicion until more positive proof is given them of its correctness.

The constituents of the Hon. Ralph Plumb must cease infringing upon his time. While it is gratifying in the highest degree to "the dear people" to know just what Mr. Plumb's opinion is upon every matter of state; and while the people of the district ought to be exceedingly timid about formulating any positive ideas upon public questions until informed officially of his views upon them, still the time must be drawn somewhere, and in justice to Mr. Plumb we insist that it be drawn at the point where it interferes with a proper discharge of his public duties. Mr. Plumb should be allowed at least sufficient time by his correspondents from "letter writing" duties to vote either "Aye" or "No" on important measures when they are before the house for passage. Doubtless this imposition upon him by these unthinking people prevented him from voting on the "Labor Arbitration" bill on Monday. In all fairness to Mr. Plumb it is no more than right to presume he was dashing off a letter on some momentous economic problem when the roll on that bill was called. He certainly was not afraid to go on record.

Brother Cullen should be more careful of his facts on one page when he continues a statement of facts on another. He says: "When this Democratic circuit editor," &c. Now this "circuit editor" is not a democrat; his paper is not democratic; never was democratic (except for hire); and is now supported by republicans and run in republican interests, by republican money. It is just as well to have this understood.

The Honorable Ralph Plumb, M. C., is being imposed upon by his unthinking constituents, and although we have never rendered any material aid to the member from this district in his political aspirations, and what is more we never expect to; yet we deem it a duty we owe to him, as one of the thousands he represents in the national legislature, to enter a formal protest against his confidence being further abused by those persons who persist in giving to the public press "the private letters" which he writes to them. It is evident, from the very contents of the letters, that they are not intended for public perusal by the writer, and it is an outrage upon him to give them public display. To be sure, they discuss financial questions, labor problems, swamp-land theories, tariff reductions and such grave topics very glibly; but over-anxious friends of Mr. Plumb do him an injustice by even hinting at his wish in the writing of the letters to have them given to "the dear people." This thing must stop or else some malicious enemy of the distinguished statesman from Streator will gather them all together and issue them in document form under the title: "The Complete Letter Writer: By Hon. Ralph Plumb, M. C." for use against him in the next congressional canvass.

The FREE TRADER, in deference to information contained in yesterday's Republican, gladly corrects the error made in stating that the "silk banner of the Oglesby guard" was sent to Springfield and graciously received by Oglesby. It was not. However, it was intended that it should be, and at one time the question was seriously discussed as to whether or no the whole guard should not go in a body to "Uncle Dick's" home and present it; but somehow satisfactory arrangements could not be made, and before the guards got around to sending their tokens of fealty to the Illinois Governor, a change came over their minds and it was concluded that after all "Uncle Dick" wasn't so much of a fellow as he was supposed to be, and that he could get along just as well without the banner as with it; and in consequence the banner was not sent. Strange, isn't it, how little things change well defined and well-matured plans?

"Well, Tom, how do you feel this morning?" said a reporter of the FREE TRADER

on encountering Tom McElmott the morning after he had secured his election.

"Feel? feel? young man; I venture to say that I feel a good deal better than Al. Thomas does."

"As no official report has been received from Thomas as to his condition, we are unable to either contradict or affirm the statement made by Mr. McElmott as to his hygienic condition as compared with that of his late opponent for commissionership honors."

"Is Prosecuting Attorney Moloney in?"  
"In? Why, no! Why should he be?" shouted Stead and Carey in chorus.  
"Why shouldn't he be? Doesn't he attend to the duties of his office on Thursdays?"  
"Well—yes, generally; but would you if you had just become the father of a young prosecuting attorney?"

Convinced that Mr. Moloney had a good and sufficient reason for not being at his desk when we called, we mended our way to a quiet retreat to figure out just what we would do under the same distressing circumstances.

## HOME MATTERS.

### Personal.

CHI.—Mrs. W. H. Stead is visiting friends in Chicago.  
MORRIS.—Miss Reardon, of Morris, is the guest of Miss Anna Hatheway.

STREATOR.—Miss Anna Porter is the guest of Mrs. Nate McDougall at Streator.

BEEM.—Mrs. I. N. Beem and daughter, Vilda, returned from Decatur on Wednesday.

McK.—Willie McKinlay has returned to Ottawa from Eldorado to look after some spring fishing.

PAK.—Frank Yentzer is in the city resting after a trip through Nebraska and Dakota in the interest of J. L. Porter.

SPENCER.—Thomas Spencer, late of Ottawa, but now a resident of Englewood, visited his friends in this city on Tuesday.

P. Ms.—Postmaster Fred. Crane, of Coalville, and postmaster Thomas Barnes, of Leeland, were in Ottawa on Monday.

DENVER.—Mrs. E. C. Allen and daughter, Mrs. Edith Jordan, have returned from an extended visit in Denver and Omaha.

STEWART.—W. K. Stewart was called to Brodhead, Wis., on Wednesday to attend the funeral of his mother, who died on Monday.

N. O.—Mr. and Mrs. George Hull returned from New Orleans yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Hull has been absent in the south six weeks.

MCCRE.—Frank Fitzgerald has accepted a position with Root & Son's music house, Chicago, and will in the future reside in that city.

HOME.—John and Jerry Looney, telegraph operators at Rock Island, visited their father, Patrick Looney, several days of the present week.

LAW.—W. J. Turner and Fred K. Schellberg, Milwaukee attorneys, were in Ottawa on Tuesday and Wednesday, transacting legal business.

HORAN.—J. E. Montrose, formerly of the Clifton, this city, has assumed part management of the Windsor—a new hotel—at Lincoln, Neb.

GENTRY.—Mrs. Gentry, of Galesburg, is visiting at her brother's, R. H. Trask. Mrs. Gentry is the wife of the deputy revenue collector of the Peoria district.

LEWIS.—Hon. E. C. Lewis will read a paper at the third annual meeting of the highway commissioners of the state at Springfield, April 27th, on "The Farmer and the Highways."

KY.—A Louisville paper, received this morning, addressed in a familiar hand indicates that Mr. Rector C. Hitt is some where near the home of Henri Watterson's "Star Eyed Goddess of Reform."

RUFF.—Charles Ruff, for some years an employee of Fiske & Beem, with his family, moved to Bavenport on Tuesday, where he will reside. The democratic vote of Iowa is increased by one by Mr. Ruff's becoming a citizen of that state.

PAUL.—Hon. George D. Ladd was on Monday elected mayor of Peru by a majority of 50, defeating ex-mayor Robert Hattenhamer. Mr. Ladd has all the energy and vim necessary to infuse some new life into Peru. He is a man of property and ability, and above all is thoroughly well grounded in the doctrines of the democratic party.

## Anniversary.

April 10th will be the 19th anniversary of the opening in Ottawa of the house of Scott Bros. & Co. The anniversary will be celebrated by a special sale all through the week, commencing on Monday, some particulars of the price list and bargains to be offered appearing elsewhere in this paper.  
Eighteen years is a long time to have been in business in one town. That the old firm were of the right sort is evidenced by the fact that of the 17 dry goods houses in this city in those days, only two or three remain. All have changed personnel, including themselves; but the old original firm remains substantially the same. The growth of the firm is a part of local history. They have been successful because they have satisfied the public, and obtained by strict business methods the confidence of the public. That the firm is to-day doing more business than they ever have done, is a natural sequence of their history and record during the past 18 years. In times when merchandising has been a business requiring the most skillful managing, the firm has grown daily, expanding their business and growing in favor with the public.  
They are in a position to-day to receive congratulations on a career so eminently successful during the past 18 years, and they deserve congratulation, and further the public, who have enjoyed the benefit of their existence here ought to congratulate them and itself also.  
They stand to-day one of the leading houses of the state, strong and representative of the energetic, go-ahead business houses of the day. The city and county take a just pride in them as an evidence of our prosperity and as an evidence that the county seat is not only the head but the business capital of this great county.